

- performing the wrapping up or covering of the artefact to be decorated, with a sublimable colour transfer support, having the form of a sheet, comprising a supporting base from gas-tight thermoformable plastic material, the pattern or decoration to be transferred to the artefact to be decorated being carried on said support base;
- creating a vacuum between said artefact and said support, through a work bench onto which said artefact is placed, so as to cause the transfer support to uniformly adhere to the surface of the artefact to be decorated;
- submitting the so treated artefact to a heating action at temperatures of 200-230°C, for a time of from about 30 seconds to 30 minutes, to perform the transfer and the polymerisation of the final colours from the transfer support to the artefact;
- removing, after cooling, said exhausted supporting base from the decorated surface of the artefact.

13. (Amended) A process for the realisation of painted and/or variously decorated artefacts, from metal materials, ceramic materials, wood, plastics, utilising the technique of the transfer of monochrome or polychrome patterns or figures reproduced on a transfer support, by means of the combined action of pressure and temperature, comprises the following steps:

- performing the wrapping up or covering of the artefact to be decorated, with a sublimable colour transfer support, having the form of a bag, or a stocking, or an envelope, comprising a supporting base from gas-tight thermoformable plastic material, the

pattern or decoration to be transferred to the artefact to be decorated being carried on said supporting base;

- creating a vacuum between said artefact and said support, through an open end of said support, so as to cause the transfer support to uniformly adhere to the surface of the artefact to be decorated;

- submitting the so treated artefact to a heating action at temperatures of 200-230°C, for a time of from about 30 seconds to 30 minutes, to perform the transfer and the polymerisation of the final colours from the transfer support to the artefact;

- removing, after cooling, said exhausted supporting base from the decorated surface of the artefact.

14. (Amended) The process according to claim 12, wherein said artefact to be decorated is firstly submitted to operations of preparation of the surfaces.

15. (Amended) The process according to claim 12, wherein said artefact to be decorated is submitted to one or more preliminary painting cycles, to avoid diffusion phenomena with the colours of the transfer support, before the decoration step.

16. (Amended) The process according to claim 14, wherein said artefact to be decorated is submitted to one or more preliminary painting cycles, to avoid diffusion phenomena with the colours of the transfer support, before the decoration step.

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17. (Amended) The process according to claim 12, wherein said exhausted supporting base is removed from the decorated surface of the artefact after handling and/or installing the decorated artefact.

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19. (Amended) The process according to claim 12, wherein said artefact wrapped up or covered with said sublimable colour transfer support adhering by effect of the vacuum to the surface to be decorated, is submitted to a first intermediate heating action at a temperature at which the thermoforming occurs.

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20. (Amended) The process according to claim 12, wherein said transfer support is laid down on the surface to be decorated of said artefact.

21. (Amended) The process according to claim 13, wherein said transfer support has the form of a first sheet placed above the artefact and a second sheet placed under the artefact.

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A marked-up copy of the amended claims is attached hereto as Appendix A.

Please add new claims 30-34 as follows:

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--30. The process according to claim 14, wherein said operations of preparation of the surfaces comprises cleaning.